

may be in reverse order of assembly by first being inserted in pocket elastic 40 and then attached to central portion of the panty (stitched over top of elastic 18). These connecting pieces 620 anchor the pocket 502 without piercing the fluid absorbing or containing area of pocket 502. The connecting pieces suspend the pocket 502 centrally at opposite ends. The pocket 502 is connected at opposite ends by overlock stitching 108. Elastic 18 finishes the leg hole. Elastic 40 terminates within seam 104, and the outermost edge of the pocket is finished by overlock stitch 162.

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims presently in the application as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A protective undergarment, comprising:  
an outer layer of fluid-resistant material shaped to conform to [the] a buttock and leg region of a user;  
an anchor layer secured to the outer layer and having a shape conforming to that of the outer layer; and  
an inner layer of fluid-resistant material with all sides thereof attached to the anchor layer, the attached sides being displaced inward from corresponding sides of the anchor layer, and the inner layer extending [inward] outwardly from the anchor layer to form a pocket [attached to the anchor layer].

7. (Amended) A protective undergarment as in claim 1, wherein the pocket is [held] attached to the anchor layer by a releasable fastener.

9. (Amended) A protective undergarment as in claim 1, wherein the [pocket] inner layer is formed by a rectangular piece of material, the corners of which are folded inward and outer edge of the pocket covered by an elastic strip.

10. (Amended) A protective undergarment as in claim 1, wherein the [pocket] inner layer is formed by a rectangular piece of material, with triangular portions near the corners of the pocket removed, remaining adjacent sides of [each triangular portion] pocket are joined together and an outer edge of the pocket covered by an elastic strip.

12. (Amended) A protective undergarment as in claim 9, wherein the pocket is [held] attached to the anchor layer by a releasable fastener.

13. (Amended) A protective undergarment as in claim 10, wherein the pocket is [held] attached to the anchor layer by a releasable fastener.

14. (Amended) A protective undergarment as in claim 9, wherein the pocket is [held] attached to the anchor layer by connecting pieces of material.